

## Outdoor &amp; Woodland Learning Activity Sheet

<b>Activity:</b>	Bird Nests in the Woods							
<b>Habitat:</b>	Woodland, Garden, Croftland	<b>Season:</b>	S	✓	S	✓	A	W

Level	
Early	
First	✓
Second	✓
Third and Fourth	✓
Senior Phase	

Curriculum topics			
Expressive Arts	✓	Health and Wellbeing	✓
Languages	✓	Mathematics	✓
Religious & Moral Ed		Sciences	✓
Social Studies		Technology	✓

Equipment*
<b>Bird pictures and names</b>
<b>Bird description summaries</b>
<b>Clipboards</b>
Blank map worksheets
<b>Compasses</b>
Pens

Time
Between 30 minutes and 2 hours.

Key outcomes
Learn about bird behaviour.
Learn different species have preferences for nesting sites and food (niche)
Develop map skills

\*Items depicted in bold are available from CALLP

Activity description
<p>This is ideally a follow-on activity from learning about birds (see <a href="#">Bird Theatre</a> activity).</p> <p>Start the session by matching up common bird pictures to their names. How many do the group remember? Shuffle the bird description summaries and hand them out. Each person finds the bird picture that matches with the species they have.</p> <p>They will see from the descriptions that “their” bird has a preferred type of nest site, nest materials, food and singing perches.</p> <p>Their first task is to search the area for a suitable nesting site that matches their description. Then they can search out some of the materials and build a nest. Have a look out for food sources as well and take note of these in relation to location of nest. And find a suitable singing perch based on the bird’s preferences. Try and ensure this isn’t too far away from the nesting site.</p> <p>Once all these been discovered, group can collectively have a bit of theatre play, flying around, singing from perch location, flying to nest, searching for food.</p> <p>An add on is now mapping the area. Using the compass to work out which directions are North, South, East and West. And drawing a birds eye view of the area, marking on where their nest site, singing perch and best food sites are.</p>

Notes
<p>To add in a nest-building challenge, get the group to use their thumb and forefinger like a beak. Challenge them to only use their “beak” for a little while, to collect items and build their nest, just like birds would! Reflect on how easy/difficult this is and what feelings are arising (fun/frustration etc).</p> <p>Can be linked in with the <a href="#">Camouflage Game</a>, to learn about food chains and invertebrates trying to avoid becoming dinner!</p>





## Dunnock

### Nesting site:

Low to the ground in shrubs such as hawthorn and brambles.

### Nest Materials:

Twigs, moss, wool and feathers.

### Food:

Insects, seeds, spiders and worms.

### Singing perch:

Low down in shrub branches.



## Wren

### Nesting site:

Holes in trees.

### Nest Materials:

Moss, lichen, leaves and feathers.

### Food:

Spiders, grubs, bugs, and other insects.

### Singing perch:

Amongst shrub branches towards the ground.



A decorative border made of thin, reddish-brown twigs with small, light-colored buds. At the bottom of the border, there are three small, yellow and green caterpillars on a twig. The text is centered within this border.

## Robin

### Nesting site:

On or near the ground in hollows, nooks and crannies (for example, tree roots or log piles).

### Nest Materials:

Dead leaves, moss and hair.

### Food:

Seeds, fruits, insects, and worms.

### Singing perch:

Visible place in tree, near to nesting site.

A decorative border made of thin, reddish-brown twigs with small, light-colored buds. At the bottom of the border, there are three small, yellow and green caterpillars on a twig. The text is centered within this border.

## Great Tit

### Nesting site:

Holes in trees.

### Nest Materials:

Twigs, moss, grass, and lichen.

### Food:

Caterpillars, spiders, worms, and seeds.

### Singing perch:

Amongst tree branches, high up, close to nesting site.





## Blue Tit

### Nesting site:

Holes in trees.

### Nest Materials:

Moss, hair, leaves and spiders webs.

### Food:

Caterpillars, beetles, aphids, and seeds.

### Singing perch:

Amongst tree branches, high up, close to nesting site.



## Blackbird

### Nesting site:

Low down hidden in thick vegetation.

### Nest Materials:


Grass, twigs and mud.

### Food:

Insects and fruits.

### Singing perch:

High up in a tree branch close to nesting site.





## Willow Warbler

### Nesting site:

On the ground, hidden amongst shrubs and grass.

### Nest Materials:


Grass, rotten wood, moss, and roots.

### Food:

Insects, spiders, small snails, fruits and berries.

### Singing perch:

Amongst tree branches, high up, near to nesting site.



## Chaffinch

### Nesting site:

Between forked branches of trees and hedges.

### Nest Materials:

Moss, grass, feathers, and spider webs.

### Food:

Seeds, fruits, berries, and insects.

### Singing perch:

Branch in a tree, near to nesting site.





